

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application, and claim 1 has been amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of claims 1-19 in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based upon an international application designating the United States. In view of the fact that Applicants' claim for priority has been acknowledged, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

Acknowledgment of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 12, 2001, April 29, 2003, and July 2, 2003. Initialed copies of the PTO-1449(s) filed on April 29, 2003, and July 2, 2003 have been received from the Examiner. The Examiner has signed the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 12, 2001 indicating that the PTO Form 1449 has been considered, but the Examiner did not initial the references. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to acknowledge that each individual reference has been considered.

Drawings

The Examiner has not acknowledged the acceptance of the drawings. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge acceptance of the drawings.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-19 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 5,666,654 (Thomas et al.). Applicants have amended claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-19, which all depend from claim 1, are not anticipated by the Thomas et al. patent

U. S. Patent 5,666,654 (Thomas et al.)

The Thomas et al. patent discloses a data management and distribution system for an electronic program guide ("EPG") for television programs. The system includes an automated data collection subsystem, a manual entry and correction subsystem, a database validation subsystem, an edition generation subsystem, a configuration subsystem, and a status and control subsystem. The edition generation subsystem generates the different editions of the EPG for the different EPG providers supported by the EPG distributor. The manual entry and correction subsystem permits the EPG distributor to make manual corrections, additions, and deletions to the data stored in configuration subsystem.

FIG. 4 of Thomas et al. illustrates the processes performed by the Manual Entry and Corrections (MEC) subsystem 20. The MEC subsystem is needed because often it is necessary for the EPG distributor to manually make changes, corrections, and deletions to the data contained in the main database 90. The editor 210 controls a text fit processor 220 to alter the content of the main EPG database using context and configuration data. Also shown in FIG. 4 is a general manual entry processor 240 by which editor 230 can enter and correct other EPG data. The EPG data distribution and management system provides this capability because it is frequently necessary to make manual corrections to the data in the main database 90. (See also col. 7, line 21 – col. 8, line 2).

Thomas et al. Does Not Anticipate Amended Claim 1

Applicants respectfully submit that Thomas et al. patent does not anticipate amended claim 1. Thomas et al. may disclose a program guide generated by a Manual Entry and Corrections (MEC) subsystem 20 and an edition generation subsystem 40, but there is no disclosure whatsoever that the edition generation subsystem updates and regenerates the program guide in the way claimed in amended claim 1.

In the Applicants' claimed invention, the table generation means generates an electronic program guide table using the electronic program information stored in an electronic program information storage means. The electronic program guide includes a first table of events, and at least a second table of events occurring at different times or in different content from the events in the first table. The table generation means updates the electronic program guide table based on the update information generated by the

editing means and the electronic program information stored in the electronic program information storage means. The table generation means, however, separately regenerates the first table of events at a time or in content different from the second table of events.

When updating EPG, only the electric program guide tables that need to be updated are regenerated, and the other edited electric program information relating to the updating is deferred and then transmitted. This process can reduce the load of the entire process.

It is respectfully submitted that the Thomas et al. patent does not disclose the Applicants' claimed first and second tables. Moreover, the Thomas et al. patent does not disclose regenerating the first table separately from the second table, and it does not disclose delaying the regeneration of the second table of events until a later predetermined time. By delaying the regeneration of the second table, Applicants have discovered that they are able to obtain an improved program guide which eliminates unnecessary updating steps and simplifies the regeneration of the tables used to create the program guide. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Thomas et al. does not anticipate amended independent claim 1, and that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Thomas et al. Applicants also respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-19 which all depend from amended claim 1 are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

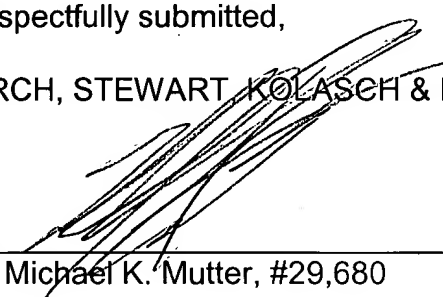
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard J. McGrath (Reg. No. 29,195) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Michael K. Mutter, #29,680


MKM/RJM/kmr

1163-0329P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000